



INDIAN DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON.

CAPT. HENRY E. ALVORD, OF VIRGINIA,

Special Indian Commissioner.

Kiowas.

LONE WOLF,

SON OF THE SUN,
SLEEPING WOLF, AND TWO SQUAWS.

DOG EATER.

Comanches.

MILKY WAY,
GRAY LEGGINGS,
GAP IN THE WOOD,
CHEEVERS,
BUFFALO HUMP,

ARRAPAHOE JOHN, AND SEVEN SQUAWS.

SILVER BROOCH,
TEN BEARS,
CHEWING ELK,
GAP IN THE SALT,
"JIM,"

Apaches.

PACER,

STRIKER,
GRAY EAGLE, AND TWO SQUAWS.

CAPITAN,

Arrapahoes.

BIG MOUTH,
WHITE CROW,

LEFT HAND,
BLACK CROW,

HEAP O' BEARS,
YELLOW HORSE.

Caddoes.

GEO. WASHINGTON,

ANTELOPE,

WAR-LOU-PEE.

Witchitas.

ESSADUA,

ESQUITZCHEW,

BLACK HORSE.

Wacocs.

Keechies.

LONG SOLDIER.

KNEE-WAR-WAR.

Towoccaroes.

Delawares.

"DAVE" AND HIS SON.

BLACK BEAVER.

INTERPRETERS.

HORACE P. JONES, for Kiowas and Comanches.

PHILIP MCCUSKER, for Arrapahoes and Apaches.

WILLIAM SHIRLEY, for Witchitas, &c.

J. J. STURM, for Caddoes and Towoccaroes.

OCTOBER, 1872.

REPORT

IN FULL

Of an interview between Indian Tribes of the State of Kansas and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, (MR. BOGY.)—Reported by C. H. EMERSON, January 30, 1867.

KANSAS TRIBES OF INDIANS ON A VISIT TO THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

After the introduction of each delegation separately to Commissioner Bogy, he addressed them as follows:

MY FRIENDS: This is a very pleasant occasion to me, as the representative of the Government, to meet you here this morning. You have all come here in the capacity of agents from your different tribes, for the purpose of carrying out, if possible, an undertaking for your own good hereafter. It is a most serious undertaking, and I have thought a great deal of the subject. The meeting to-day is merely one of introduction, not of business, but yet it is proper that I should give you the outline of my views, with regard to the great question which has brought you to this city.

When I took charge of this Bureau, as Commissioner, the first thing that presented itself to my mind was the removal of those Indian tribes occupying the eastern part of the State of Kansas to a new country. Perhaps there is no man in this country who has more cause for sympathy for the Indians than I have; at the same time I do not wish to be understood as indulging in any sickly sentimentalities.

Born in the West myself, I was in my early youth accustomed to the Indians, and some of the Indians here present to-day were born in the same town as myself, and Indian boys were my playmates. Those early impressions have never been effaced from my heart, and

I have yet a deep sympathy for the Indian; and although he may not always be in the right, yet he is not always in the wrong.

This question was presented to my mind when I first took charge of this office—what should be done with those tribes in the eastern portion of the State of Kansas? They were no longer the barbarians that their forefathers had been; they were becoming rapidly civilized. Most of them had abandoned the chase, and had settled down in peace, and were pursuing domestic industry. Many of them were educated men, and Christians, and fast assimilating their condition to the condition of the white man of this continent; therefore, it became a matter of very serious importance with me, in considering their condition, whether they could be more benefitted in the country they were then inhabiting, or whether it would be better to go to a new country, where they would have more lands and a new future, “boundless in extent, and more durable in time.”

Another reason which had great weight with me, was this: for the good of the State of Kansas; for the good of the white man who has settled in that State, I thought it better, as a matter of justice to the people of that great and enterprising State, that the Indians, without doing them any injustice, should be removed, provided it resulted in no injuries to them, but rather a benefit. The whole subject presented itself to me as one of great and vital importance, and for this reason you have come here to present your views and discuss this matter with me, representatives as you are of the different tribes located in that State. I believe you are all here, or soon will be, as delegates to this business interview. To you belongs a certain quantity of land, in the aggregate amounting to a very large quantity. These lands have become valuable. It was the labor of the white man and the white settlers that made them so—it was not yours. I say this with no intention of doing you injustice, because you will find that I will be fair and candid with you in all of our transactions. It was the labor of the white man that increased the value of these lands—not yours—yet, notwithstanding this, it is your property. Therefore, it would be wrong for the delegation to expect any extravagant prices for their lands, and also wrong if the white people should receive those lands for small prices, and I assure you that there shall be no unworthy speculations. What we agree upon to be done, will be carried out to the letter, and with fidelity to the bargains we agree upon, permitting no improper advantage to be taken by the white man. The Indians shall receive, without any deduction, the amounts they are justly entitled to.

The quantity of land you own in the State of Kansas is not so very

large in number of acres, although considerable, yet it is worth a good deal. It will afford you ample means, by judicious administration, to secure you your new homes, and will also be ample enough to secure you such implements of husbandry as will be necessary to place you in good circumstances and condition.

What specific plan will be adopted, it is not proper for me now to say; however, it will be my duty, as well as pleasure, to listen to such views as you may desire to express. I may not adopt those views, and you may not accept mine.

I ask this delegation to speak and tell me, without diffidence or restraint, what they want and expect, and I shall be equally candid with them. One thing is certain, I shall want nothing but what I shall conceive to be for your own good. It is my duty, here, to consult with you, and then in my best judgment to do that which I think most conducive to your welfare. I shall, therefore, when the proper time comes, listen to your views; and if they accord with mine, shall unhesitatingly adopt them.

I cannot let this singular occasion pass without one or two reflections. To all who have read the history of this country, it must be painful to think how rapidly nations pass away. I, myself, young as I am, (laughter,) remember when many of these tribe of which you are the delegated representatives were strong and powerful tribes, and yet how weak you are to-day. It is no disgrace to be weak. There is nothing humiliating attending it. You are only by the law of God, and the great law of nature, passing away. There is something instructive in this Divine law. When we look back to what was once so strong, and contemplate your present weakness, we scarcely can say that in this weakened condition there is any disgrace. But you must remember that he who is weak cannot undertake to cope with the strong, lest in that battle he be overcome and destroyed. You, as the descendants of the first occupants of this country, should not undertake to wage war against the white man who is strong, not because he carries the bow and arrows, but because he is armed with the weapons of civilization and Christianity. The arts of peace, and not the arts of war, must be cultivated. The Indians of the American continent are a high and noble race of men. The pages of our history are full of their warrior's bold and brave deeds, but do not let war and warlike deeds control your aspirations any longer. You must settle down as peaceable and quiet men, not in submission, but according to the laws of civilization; become participants in common with your white brethren in endeavoring to ameliorate the condition of those of your race who tena-

ciously cling to the traditions of their forefathers, and by this movement aid in swelling the great wave of civilization. It is a singular thing that I meet here to-day the descendants of many whom in my earlier days I fought against as a soldier—perhaps not very valiantly; and I also observe many faces which I recognize, and the name of Keokuk, one of your number, is as familiar with me as a household word. I remember now, when I was a soldier in the Black Hawk war, how ambitious I was, and how confidently I expected to achieve fame and honor by killing the ancestor of this warrior. The Sacs and Foxes, thirty years ago, were a very powerful tribe, but they are passing away, and to-day the remnant, instead of being a warlike tribe, are a quiet, peaceable, and civilized people, and, together with the other Indians in the State, have made great progress in civilization and agriculture. There are some representatives of your tribes in the State that are as intelligent and as well educated men as any who inhabit this country.

In regard to the new country, I am informed that the land is very inviting, affording every means that will secure your happiness and comfort; and I feel very anxious that there should be no complaint about it, for it would be a source of great pain to me the rest of my days if I should learn that, in taking you from your present homes, and placing you in a new country, that it did not satisfy you, and therefore I want the matter fully and fairly discussed in our meeting. I have sent commissioners to examine and report to me the condition and fertility of your proposed new homes, and I presume they will be here in time to take part in the meetings. If this country, formerly known as the lease land, which now belongs to the United States, by fee simple title, does not satisfy you, we have other arrangements with the Chickasaws, Choctaws, and Cherokees, by which you may obtain homes in their country. My information is, that the land is well adapted to farming and raising of stock; and, if this is so, it is better for you to go there and get large reservations and there settle down, close together, each tribe upon its own reservation, than go among those nations more powerful and numerous than you are.

It would be a source of great pain to me to hear that I had placed you upon unproductive land, and it will be a pleasure to me if I can be the humble instrument of changing you from where you now are to a new and better home.

I believe I have given you a brief outline of my views upon the subject which has brought you here. I wish you, however, to distinctly understand that this meeting is not a business one. We have

been convened together for the purpose of forming each other's acquaintance, so that hereafter we may understand each other. You have a large interest in the matter, but I have none at all, excepting the interest which a man feels in doing his duty as an officer and as a man to a man, as a christian—to what I hope you will soon all be—to another christian. My friends, I thank you for your kind attention.

At the conclusion of Mr. Bogy's welcome, those of the Indians unacquainted with the English language (among whom was Keokuk, son of the celebrated Prophet of the Sacs and Foxes,) requested the Commissioner to communicate to them, in brief, through their Interpreter, the substance of what he had said.

Mr. Bogy then said: (speaking to the Interpreter,) You will say to them, that I have brought them here for the purpose of consulting with them as to the propriety of removing to this new country—not to force them. It will be a matter of great importance to them, as their happiness will hereafter depend upon this movement. I want them to tell me, through you, candidly, how they feel about it, and what they understand to be for their good; also say, in removing them from their present country, the object is to procure for them a reasonable compensation for their lands, and also give them new homes in the other country, which exchange will leave them a surplus of money to buy such things as they may need. I wish all the delegates here present, at our next interview, to give me what they believe to be the value of their property, so as to prevent any outside speculation. Say to them that the thing is to be fairly and squarely done. They must not put the value of their property too high, and for this purpose should consult their friends, and tell me what it is worth. Tell them I will have the commissioners back in a few days from the new country to report to me as to the quality and condition of the land, and, when I know that we may then be able to conclude our arrangements.

They responded, in giving evidence of their approval, by a significant "Ugh."

On parting with the Commissioner, each of the delegates present went forward and warmly shook the hand of the Commissioner, evincing a warm approbation of what had been said to them. Keokuk, on shaking the hand of the Commissioner, stated that he would like to make a few remarks, provided his Good Father would be pleased to listen to him. Mr. Bogy gave his assent, whereupon the Chief proceeded, his language being interpreted as follows:

MY GOOD FATHER: I am very glad to see you—as much so as a child is to see its parent; and I am glad to see you because you speak out plainly—and I like a man so to speak, as I can then tell what he is. All of our children of the different tribes have come here to make a treaty with you, and I, for myself, am glad to be with them, and to hear what you and they have to say.

We will all talk it over among ourselves, so that at the next meeting we will thoroughly understand each other. I am glad that I have come here; but your people brought us so fast that they threw us out of the wagon and came near killing all of your children. [Laughter.]

At the conclusion of Keokuk's speech, the delegation withdrew.

The following tribes are represented by duly appointed delegations to enter into treaties with the United States, viz:

KAWS	population	670
SACS AND FOXES.....	do.....	766
CHIPPEWAS AND MUNSEES.....	do.....	80
POTTAWATOMIES.....	do.....	1,992
DELAWARES.....	do.....	1,064
MIAMIES.....	do.....	127
PIANKESHAWS, WEAS, KASKASKIES, AND PEORIAS.....	do.....	230
KICKAPOOS.....	do.....	242
SHAWNEES.....	do.....	660
OTTOWAS.....	do.....	200
WYANDOTTS.....	do.....	435
QUAPAWS.....	do.....	350
SENECAS AND SHAWNEES.....	do.....	210
SENECAS.....	do.....	130

And perhaps Iowas and Oneidas.

There are 3,000 Osages, but not represented.





